

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - HEARING - MARCH 19, 2014

**CONNECTICUT ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE SOCIETY
CTAPRNS**

**Testimony In Opposition to RB No. 459
AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANTS**

Dear Sen. Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing to oppose RB #459 that has been proposed to allow medical assistants the ability to perform injections on patients in the healthcare setting.

Medical Assistant programs are focused on training individuals to perform non-invasive tasks on patients, including EKG's, urine dipsticks, swabs for strep throat and influenza. They are trained to perform vital signs. Their education does not include the in-depth theory that is the cornerstone of nursing education which provides the much needed background to perform invasive procedures.

Administering injections is not something that is to be taken lightly. Improper administration of injectables of any kind can cause serious adverse reactions including infection, sepsis and death. This compromises patient safety on many levels.

CTAPRNS is opposed to this bill that would allow medical assistants to perform this procedure without the necessary education, theory and training.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Pomarico, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
President